

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action mailed January 4, 2005. Claims 1-20 were examined and rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, and 17 have been amended to further clarify the claim scope in accordance with the Substance of Interview Summary below and to overcome the rejections outlined in the Office Action. Claims 2, 4, and 6-7 have been canceled and new claims 21-23 have been added to provide claims of varying scope from those initially filed. Continued examination and reconsideration based on this amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Substance of Interview Summary

A telephonic interview occurred between the undersigned, Murrell Blackburn, Examiner Gautam Sain, and Primary Examiner Sanjiv Shah on Thursday, March 10, 2005. The interview covered the rejections to claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (version 9.0.4402 SR-1, copyrighted 1985-1999; hereinafter "Excel 2000"). The interview also covered the rejection to claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel 2000 in view of U. S. Patent No. 5657259 to Davis et al. (hereinafter Davis) and Microsoft Windows NT (version 3.3/4.0, copyrighted 1981-1998; hereinafter "NT") respectfully.

The undersigned pointed out to the Examiners that Excel 2000 does not teach or suggest receiving a locale identifier only for the number from a selection via a Locale dropdown menu of the Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application program module as recited in amended claim 11. Locale (LCID) settings in Excel 2000 are not selected from within the spreadsheet module application such that the settings only affect the numbers within the spreadsheet application. LCID as disclosed in Excel 2000 teaches away from Applicants' claim 11 and only refers to files associated with a language that supports all of OFFICE from Microsoft Corporation as a regional setting effecting all application programs in OFFICE. There is no teaching or suggestion of being able to select a locale from within a spreadsheet application independent of regional settings. Thus, Excel 2000 also does not teach or suggest cross-referencing the category indication and the locale identifier selected from a Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application independent of operating system regional format settings. Excel page 8, cited in the Office Action, discloses that custom special characters must be inserted before a date code to override regional settings. (See page 8 of Excel 2000, number

4). This teaches away from a menu selection from a list of pre-determined choices for language specific information, such as the locale dropdown menu, to render the number.

The undersigned also pointed out that Excel 2000 does not teach or suggest a locale specifier that includes a locale identification, a number shape, and a calendar type utilized to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module.

The Examiners indicated that they would examine the application in view of the inventive features explained after a response is filed. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the arguments made by the undersigned may have merit however further examination and/or search is still required.

This written response is thus, submitted in follow-up to the telephonic interview for consideration by the Examiner, as it is believed to have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections-35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5-6, 8-10, and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Excel 2000. Applicants respectfully submit that Excel 2000 does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants claimed invention as recited in amended independent claim 5.

Claim 5

Applicants claimed invention as recited in amended claim 5 is drawn to a computer-implemented method for entering a number into a cell in an electronic spreadsheet of a spreadsheet application program module. The method comprises, among other features, the steps of (1) receiving a locale identifier only for the number from a selection via a Locale dropdown menu of the Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application program module and (2) cross-referencing the category indication and the locale identifier independent of regional format settings to determine a plurality of sample number formats with a plurality of underlying number formats.

In contrast, Locale (LCID) settings disclosed in Excel 2000 are not selected from within the spreadsheet module application such that the settings only affect the number within the spreadsheet application. LCID as disclosed in Excel 2000 teaches away from Applicants' claim 5 and only refers to files associated with a language that supports all of OFFICE from Microsoft

Corporation as a regional setting effecting entire components or application programs in OFFICE. (See Excel pages 2 and 9, lines 1-3). The Office Action on page 2 actually acknowledges that the various languages supported by LCID are cross-referenced with MS OFFICE applications. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Excel 2000 of being able to (1) receive a locale identifier selection from within a spreadsheet application module independent of regional settings to be applied only to numbers within the spreadsheet application. Thus, Excel 2000 also does not teach or suggest (2) cross-referencing the category indication and the locale identifier selected from a Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application independent of regional format settings. Excel page 8, cited in the Office Action, discloses that custom special characters must be inserted before a date code to override regional settings. (See page 8 of Excel 2000, number 4). This teaches away from a menu selection from a list of pre-determined choices for language specific information, such as the locale dropdown menu, to render the number. Thus, Applicants' amended claim 5 is allowable over Excel 2000.

Applicants further submit that claims 8-10, and 16-17 are also at least in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency on amended claim 5. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim rejections-35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel 2000 in view of Davis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,657,259, hereinafter Davis). Applicants respectfully submit that Excel 2000 in view of Davis does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants claimed invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Claim 1

Applicants claimed invention, as recited in amended claim 1, is drawn to a computer-implemented method for rendering a number in a spreadsheet program module. The method comprises, among other features, the steps of (1) reading a worldwide number format of the number wherein the worldwide format includes a locale specifier of the number and a base format of the number and (2) using the base format and the locale specifier to render the number therein applying the worldwide number format to the number wherein the locale specifier comprises (a) a locale identification used to categorize different parts of the world and determine what language in which to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module, (b) a number shape including a number shape

value that indicates what shape in which to render the number, and (c) a calendar type including a calendar type value that indicates which calendar should be used to calculate a date from the value of the number.

In contrast, Excel 2000 discloses a General, Built-in, and a Custom format of which none include a locale specifier as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1. The General format displays basically what was entered and the Built-in format can only include a user-selection of category. (See Excel 2000 page 1, 1d and 1f). However, the Built-in format does not include a locale specifier that includes (a) a locale identification used to categorize different parts of the world and determine what language in which to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module, (b) a number shape including a number shape value that indicates what shape in which to render the number, and (c) a calendar type including a calendar type value that indicates which calendar should be used to calculate a date from the value of the number.

The Office Action cites Excel, page 2 in support of asserting that LCIDs disclose a locale specifier. However, as described above with respect to amended claim 5, the LCIDs as disclosed in Excel 2000 do not teach or suggest a locale identification used to determine what language in which to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module. (See Excel pages 2 and 9, lines 1-3). Additionally, Davis discloses a method and system for converting numerical information from one system to another whereas Applicants' amended claim 1 recites applying a worldwide number format to a raw number or value. (See Davis, column 2, lines 1-6). Thus, neither Excel 2000 nor Davis alone, or in combination teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants' amended claim 1 is allowable over Excel 2000 in view of Davis.

Applicants further submit that claims 3 and 15 are also at least in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency on amended claim 1. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled.

Claims 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel 2000 in view of Microsoft Windows NT (version 3.3/4.0, copyrighted 1981-1988 hereinafter NT). Applicants respectfully submit that Excel 2000 in view of NT does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants claimed invention as recited in amended independent claim 11.

Claim 11

Applicants claimed invention, as recited in amended claim 11, is drawn to a Format Cells dialog box for choosing the number format of a number in an electronic spreadsheet application program module. The dialog box comprises, among other features, (1) a Locale menu comprising a plurality of locales to select as the locale identification only for the number independent of at least one of regional settings and a language version of the electronic spreadsheet application program module.

The Office Action acknowledges on page 6 that Excel 2000 does not teach a Locale menu but cites NT, page 1 in support of asserting that NT teaches a locale to select in a menu. However, it is very clear from the NT reference that the locale menu selection applies to regional settings and thus not only the number as recited in Applicants' claim 11. (See NT, page 1). Further, as described above with respect to amended claim 5, the LCIDs as disclosed in Excel 2000 do not teach or suggest a locale identification used to determine what language in which to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module. (See Excel pages 2 and 9, lines 1-3). Thus, neither Excel 2000 nor NT alone, or in combination teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' amended claim 11.

Applicants further submit that claims 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 20 are also at least in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency on amended claim 11. Claim 7 has been canceled.

New Claims

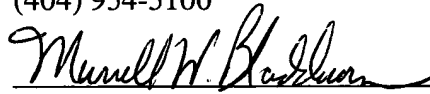
New claims 21-23 have been added to provide claims of varying scope than those initially filed. Applicants assert that these new claims are also allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 21 recites a number shape as part of the locale specifier that refers to ASCII numbers, Arabic numbers, Chinese numbers, Korean numbers, or Japanese numbers. None of the cited references teach or suggest applying such a number shape to render a number instead of approximation as utilized in previous systems.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954-5100



Murrell W. Blackburn
Reg. No. 50,881

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